What is claimed is:

1	1.	A method of assigning resources for a computer system design
2		comprising:
3		a. receiving desired levels of performance parameters for a computer
4		system design from a user via a user interface to a computer system;
5		b. modifying the design in response to said desired levels;
6		c. predicting levels of performance parameters for the modified design of
7		the storage system; and
8		d. displaying for the user indicia of the predicted levels of performance
9		parameters for the modified design.
1	2.	The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system design
2		comprises a design for a data storage system.
1	3.	The method according to claim 1, wherein said modifying includes
2		reducing said desired levels of performance parameters.
1	4.	The method according to claim 3, wherein said reducing is based on utility
2		functions.
1	5.	The method according to claim 4, further comprising:
2		a. receiving the utility functions via the user interface to the computer
3		system; and
4		b. storing said utility functions in a memory device of the computer
5		system.
1	6.	The method according to claim 1, wherein the desired levels of
2		performance parameters are specified by the user through a graphical user
3		interface.
1	7.	The method according to claim 1, wherein the desired levels of
2		performance parameters are specified by the user through a graphical user

	3		interface by the user manipulating heights of bar graphs shown on a
	4		display of the computer system.
	1	8.	The method according to claim 7, wherein each bar graph includes first
	2		indicia of the corresponding desired level of the performance parameter.
	1	9.	The method according to claim 8, wherein each bar graph includes second
	2		indicia of the corresponding predicted level of the performance parameter.
	1	10.	A method of assigning resources for a computer system design
	2		comprising:
#T.	3		a. receiving desired levels of performance parameters for a computer
	4		system design from a user via a user interface to a computer system;
nd word it's diver from Bods Hall Hall	5		b. developing the design;
i L	6		c. predicting levels of performance parameters for the design;
en de la constante de la const	7		d. comparing the predicted levels of performance parameters to the
	8		desired levels of performance parameters; and
	9		e. modifying the design when the predicted levels are lower than the
	10		desired levels, said modifying being performed by the computer
	11		system.
	1	11.	The method according to claim 10, wherein the computer system design
	2		comprises a design for a data storage system.
	1	12.	The method according to claim 10, wherein said developing comprises
	2		assigning system resources to applications to be served by the design.
	1	13.	The method according to claim 12, said assigning being performed by a
	2		design tool operating on the computer system.
	1	14.	The method according to claim 10, wherein said modifying includes
	2		reducing said desired levels of performance parameters.
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1 2	15.	The method according to claim 14, wherein said reducing is based on utility functions.
1	16.	The method according to claim 15, further comprising receiving the utility
2		functions via the user interface to the computer system.
1	17.	The method according to claim 10, wherein the user interface is a
2		graphical user interface.
1	18.	The method according to claim 17, wherein the desired levels of
2		performance parameters are specified by the user through the graphical
3		user interface by the user manipulating heights of bar graphs shown on a
4		display of the computer system.
1	19.	The method according to claim 18, wherein each bar graph includes first
2		indicia of the desired level of the corresponding performance parameter.
1	20.	The method according to claim 19, wherein each bar graph includes
2		second indicia of the predicted level of the corresponding performance
3		parameter.
1	21.	The method according to claim 10, further comprising repeating said steps
2		of predicting and comparing after said modifying.
1	22.	The method according to claim 21, wherein when the predicted levels are
2		lower than the desired levels after said modifying, then notifying the user.
1	23.	An apparatus for assigning resources for a computer system design,
2		comprising a computer system programmed to operate in a first program
3		loop in which a user specifies desired levels of performance parameters of
4		the design and a second program loop in which: performance parameter
5		levels are predicted for the design; the predicted performance parameters
6		are compared to the desired levels of performance parameters; and the
7		design is modified in response to the comparison.

